

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CYPRIOT REPORT OF FURTHER "COLONIZATION" OF
VAROSHA

1. CYPRUS AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALLED ON EUR
APRIL 6, ON INSTRUCTIONS, TO BRING TO
DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION REPORTS GOC HAD RECEIVED OF FURTHER
"COLONIZATION" OF VAROSHA. THE MFA HAD COME INTO POSSESS-
ION OF RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT SETTLEMENT HAD RECENTLY
BEEN PERMITTED IN THE AREA OF VAROSHA TO THE NORTH OF
ELEFThERIAS AVENUE AND TO THE EAST OF THE MUNICIPAL STADIUM.
SOME 120 HOUSES AND SHOPS HAD BEEN OPENED TO MAINLAND
TURKS, AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAD BEEN GIVEN AUTHORIZA-
TION TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION WORK ON TWO APARTMENT
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BUILDINGS NEAR THE CONSTANTIYA HOTEL, EACH 8-9 STORIES IN
HEIGHT (THESE HAD BEEN UNFINISHED AT THE TIME OF THE
TURKISH INTERVENTION). DIMITRIOU ADDED THAT THE ONLY
REASON WHY MORE TURKISH SETTLERS HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED IN
WAS THAT THE AREA HAD BEEN HEAVILY DAMAGED IN THE FIGHTING
AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY THE LIVABLE ACCOMMODATIONS WERE
LIMITED.

2. DIMITRIOU SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRING THIS INFORMATION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE USG AND TO CONVEY

THE GOC INTERPRETATION THAT THIS WAS AN INDICATION OF THE REAL INTENTIONS OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT, IN CONTRA-DISTINCTION TO THE GOT'S EXPRESSED READINESS TO PROMOTE A SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. THE "COLONIZATION" OF FAMAGUSTA, WHICH HAD BEEN THE DECLARED POLICY OF THE SHORT-LIVED ECEVIT GOVERNMENT IN 1977, WOULD NOW APPARENTLY CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOALS OF TURKISH EXPANSIONIST POLICY. DIMITRIOU NOTED THAT THIS NEW SETTLEMENT WAS TAKING PLACE AT PRECISELY THE SAME TIME AS THE ADMINISTRATION WAS SEEKING A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT IF THE EMBARGO WERE IN FACT LIFTED THE ROAD WOULD BE OPENED TO COMPLETE "COLONIZATION" OF FAMAGUSTA. AS A FINAL POINT, DIMITRIOU SAID THAT THE AREAS HE HAD DESCRIBED (PARA 1) FORMED PART OF GREATER FAMAGUSTA, WHICH DENKTASH HAD IN MIND TO "COLONIZE" AS THE FIRST STAGE OF THE COMPLETE "COLONIZATION" OF THE MODERN CITY.

3. DEPTOFF SAID THAT WE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THIS REPORT BUT ADDED THAT WE HAD HEARD OF SIMILAR REPORTS A SHORT WHILE AGO. UPON PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION THESE HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE UNSUBSTANTIATED.

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4. DEPTOFF ALSO SAID WE HAD TAKEN NOTE OF THE PERSONAL EFFORTS THAT BOTH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AND FOREIGN MINISTER ROLANDIS HAD MADE, IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS BOTH HERE AND IN NICOSIA, TO MODERATE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. WE WERE GRATEFUL FOR THIS.

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY NICOSIA LOOKING INTO THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE REPORTS MENTIONED BY DIMITRIOU. VANCE

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